

Branford Pediatrics and Allergy, P.C.

Testimony before the Human Services and Appropriations Committees in Opposition to Proposed HUSKY A Managed Care Waiver

March 31, 2009

Good afternoon, Senators Harp and Doyle, Representatives Walker and Geragosian, and members of the committees. Thank you for the opportunity to communicate with you today about my opposition to DSS' draft Medicaid managed care waiver because of its incorporation of several provisions related to Primary Case Care Management (PCCM) for the Husky A population. These provisions, if adopted, would effectively endorse that agency's decisions undermining the statewide PCCM plan unanimously adopted by your committees on September 24, 2008. I urge you to reject DSS's request with an instruction to resubmit the draft waiver with PCCM provisions that faithfully follow the approved PCCM plan.

I am a pediatrician in a practice in the Greater New Haven/Shoreline area with 9 physicians, 2 APRNs and a physician's assistant. With our two offices, we serve approximately 10,000 patients about 30% of whom obtain their health insurance through the Husky program. Our entire practice was excited when, in October, 2008, we were invited by DSS to apply to become providers in an exciting new pilot program for Husky A patients called PCCM. In addition, we were invited by DSS to a forum in New Haven on October 21, 2008 to hear about the details of the pilot program. We believed in a model of care that would place providers themselves as case managers for their patients, not a third party. This would be consistent with the idea of "The Medical Home" which we have, as pediatricians, tried to implement. Indeed, our entire medical group applied to participate in DSS's PCCM program. I also believe that there has been strong interest in the plan by many other providers in Greater New Haven.

We are disappointed that DSS has opted to operate the pilot program in two specific towns only, which do not include our area, despite the statement in DSS's written invitation to us through a formal bulletin that "The Department's goal is to open PCCM as an option to HUSKY A clients in as many geographic locations as possible by January 1, 2009." We strongly urge DSS to reverse this decision, follow through with the commitment it made to primary care providers throughout the state last October, and conform its waiver request to the official PCCM plan approved by your legislative committees.

Thank you.

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